

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. Claims 25-31 have been amended.

Objection to the Drawings:

The drawings were objected to. More particularly, the Examiner objected to Figures 2, 4, and 6 for not being labeled as prior art. Applicant has amended the drawings to label these drawings as prior art, and has also amended the brief description of the drawings to note that Figures 2, 4, and 6 as prior art.

Objection to the Claims:

Claims 26-31 were objected to. In particular, claims 26-31 were misnumbered as claims 27-32, respectively. Applicant has amended claims 26-31 in order to correct the numbering. Claims 25 and 27-32 (previous numbering) were objected for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant has amended the dependencies of these claims, and accordingly submits that the amended claims do further limit the subject matter of the previous claims from which they depend.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection:

Claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the Examiner noted that the feature “depending on whether the directory memory includes an indication of the first address” in claim 21, lines 10-12, is not supported by the specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Page 22, lines 8-10 of the specification state: “As used herein, the term “hit”, when referring to the partial directory cache, refers to an input block address matching with one of the block addresses for which an indication is stored in the partial directory cache.” Applicant submits that this statement clearly supports the claim limitation of claim 21, lines 10-12. Applicant notes that further support is found further down in the

paragraph beginning on page 22, line 8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the enablement requirement has been met, and therefore respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-10, 14, 16-17, 19, 21-24 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keller, U.S. Patent 6,490,661, in view of Van Doren, U.S. Patent 6,202,126. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Keller patent is not prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 amended 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) to state that art which qualifies as prior art only under §102(e), (f) or (g) is not available for rejections under §103 if that art and the subject matter of the application under examination were owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same assignee at the time the invention was made. This change to 35 U.S.C. §103(c) is effective for any application filed on or after November 29, 1999. The present application is an application for patent filed after November 29, 1999. **At the time the invention was made, the subject matter of present application and the Keller patent were both owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same assignee, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., as evidenced by the assignment for the present application recorded in the PTO at reel 012011, frame 0132, and the assignment for the Keller patent recorded in the PTO at reel 009822, frame 0111.** Therefore, the amendment to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) made by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 applies to the present application and operates to exclude the Keller patent as available prior art for rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant accordingly believes the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection to be moot and thus respectfully requests its removal.

Allowable Subject Matter:

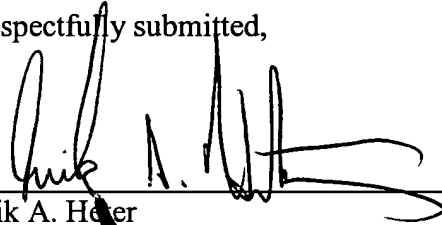
Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 11-13, 15, 18, 20, 26, 27, 28, 30 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates Examiner's consideration of these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-69700/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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